

Fun N FITchburg/ Mass in Motion Meeting minutes

March 22, 2010

2:30PM-4:30PM

Veterans Room at Fitchburg City Hall

The meeting came to order at approximately 2:35PM. 11 members were present including 2 members of WalkBoston.

The group coordinators made announcements:

1. Ayn Yeagle is requesting information gathered from the interviews be submitted to her as she is going to tally the info for the upcoming MIM meeting on Friday March 26th. This info gathered will be used to design the action plan which is the next phase of the MIM grant (year #2)
2. The next announcement was the regrets to attend the meeting. Donna Salloom, Mark Jackson and Marianne Pappas notified that they were unable to make today's meeting.
3. Members were allowed to cast a written vote on which Fun n FITchburg logo that prefer.
4. The group introduced themselves to Dorothy and Rosa of WalkBoston.

A PowerPoint presentation by the WalkBoston group was the conducted. A copy of the power point can be accessed at www.walkboston.org. A history of WalkBoston as well as different ideas and project results were presented in the presentation.

What makes a neighborhood walkable was the theme and the presentation pointed out how to increase walkability in neighborhoods. Sidewalks in good repair, crosswalks, and numerous traffic control measures are good examples of what makes communities more walkable.

Harvard Square in Boston was an example of the results of WalkBoston

\The group then decided to conduct an on-street audit. The audit tool and related paperwork could not be taken on the audit due to the inclement weather. Members gracefully tracked up Main Street to Upper Common and then crossed to Academy Street down the Longsjo Middle School steps and proceeded down Wallace Ave and back to City Hall. WalkBoston members pointed out numerous ideas of how to improve walkability in this area and how to slow or re-direct traffic. Much discussion and many new ideas resulted from the audit.

Here is a quick link to a WalkBoston Brochure on how to make Fitchburg more walkable.

<http://www.walkboston.org/documents/walkComm.pdf>

The group then returned to City Hall to conduct the Walkability Audit as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and a form was handed out to ease reporting to the local authorities of problems with sidewalks, intersections and specific issues. A copy of the reporting form can be found on the WalkBoston website or a link at

<http://www.walkboston.org/documents/reportForm.pdf>

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM. Next meeting to be held Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 12noon-2PM, in the Veterans Room at City Hall. Lunch will be served!